THE MESSENGER
OF THE OAKLAND STAKE OF ZION

Vol. 6 | OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA, DECEMBER, 1936 | No. 10

THE CHURCH AND WORLD PEACE

Written by Tom S. Ferguson, senior at the University of California, majoring in International Relations

Since the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, mankind has had a major war once in every thirty years, if we take the average. The world has been waiting all these centuries for peace and apparently we have not come close to it yet. Perhaps the record of mankind would have been different had there not been an apostasy soon after the crucifixion of the Prince of Peace. We cannot say that Christianity has failed as a practical philosophy for curtailing the baser propensities in men because of the fact Western peoples have been fighting among themselves in an endless series of bloody wars. Christianity has not failed. It was neither understood nor taught by men during the long dark centuries which intervened between the time of the Apostasy and the Restoration. Christ did not desert men, but rather, men had deserted Him. The lessons of history teach clearly that wars, and other great plagues which inflict men, do not arise when men are living according to the Laws of God.

Even though ten million people died in "The War to End War," the nations of the earth are today facing the immediate menace of a greater catastrophy than the World War. Science has been progressing since 1918, and so the means of destruction at the disposal of modern armies are that much more deadly. The discouraging thing is that governments, and the relations between governments, do not seem to have improved much, if at all. Science has advanced but the relations of men, and the relations of the governments of men have stood still. So, perhaps it is altogether fitting and proper that we of the Church should give the problem of war and peace serious attention. In this article I shall attempt to do nothing more than to bring forward some important Church attitudes which, I think, may serve as a basis for further consideration on the part of Latter Day Saints who may believe that we might be able to do something more in behalf of peace. I also will offer, in a humble way, some suggestions, which, at least, are of a constructive nature.

"Every man holding the Priesthood is essentially an ambassador of truth to the nations, and therefore should attempt to develop all his faculties, and to secure a cosmopolitan outlook on life." (Guide for Quorums of The Melchizedek Priesthood, 1930 Ed., p. 54) "Every man holding the Priesthood is a seeker after and a teacher of cheer and kindness and will help bring about peace and good will on earth." (ibid. p. 58) Also, we have a definite command given to us to "renounce war and to proclaim peace." (D. & C. 98:16) Accordingly, this matter becomes a duty with us.

Just what can we do to help? If we are going to correct an evil we will do well to find out the causes of that evil. The Book of Mormon gives a true and accurate insight into the causes and effects of wars. For example, in the record of the Jaredites we are given a study of a civil war which was so terrible "that the whole face of the land was covered with the bodies of the dead—and the scent thereof went forth upon the face of the land (North America), even upon all the face of the land; wherefore the people became troubled by day and by night, because of the scent thereof — there had been slain two millions of mighty men, and also their wives and their children." (Ether Chapters 14 and 15) "—it is the wicked that stir up the hearts of the children of men unto bloodshed," said the prophet, Momon. (Mormon, 4:50) The same writer said further: "And it came to pass that my people, with their wives and their children, did now behold the armies of the Lamanites marching towards them; and with that awful fear of death which fill the breasts of all the wicked, did they await to receive them." Over 230,000 Nephite men were slain in the battle which followed. Just prior to this (it was the last great battle between the Nephites and the Lamanites because it practically exterminated the former) we are told somewhat concerning the causes of this war by Mormon, the great leader of the Nephite people at the time. He wrote: "But behold, I was without hope, for I knew the judgments of the Lord which should come upon them; for they repented not of their iniquities but did struggle for their lives without calling upon that Being who created them." (ibid. 5:2)

Moroni, in writing about the destruction of the great Jaredite civilization which had preceded that of his own people said "And now I, Moroni, do not write the manner of their oaths and combinations, for it hath been made known unto me that they are had among all people, and they are had among the Lamanites. And they have caused the destruction of this people of whom I am now speaking, and also the destruction of the people of Nephi. And whatsoever nation shall uphold such secret combinations to get power and gain, until they shall spread over the nation, behold they shall be destroyed—" (Ether, 8:20-22) Immediately after the foregoing statements in the record there follows a warning to us of the Latter Days: "O ye Gentiles, it is wisdom in God that these things should be shown unto you, that thereby ye may repent of your sins, and suffer not that these murderous combinations shall get above you, which are built up to get power and gain—and the work of destruction come upon you, yea even the sword of justice of the Eternal God shall fall upon you, to your overthrow and destruction if ye shall suffer

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THELMA WALTON LANE

The funeral of Thelma Walton Lane was conducted by Denzel C. Allen on November 14. The speaker was Elder Geo. D. Castro, and the music was provided by the Berkeley Quartet composed of Orthella Hughes, Jessie Lund, W. King Driggs, and John Y. Smith. Jessie Lund also sang a solo. The interment was in Sunset Cemetery.

Mrs. Lane was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on March 3, 1908. Her parents were Joseph William Walton of Salt Lake City, and Mary Black of Deseret, Millard County, Utah. All four grandparents were Mormon pioneers of the early fifties. At the age of eight, Thelma was baptised in Miller Ward, Granite Stake, Salt Lake City. She attended the different organizations regularly during her younger life. Mrs. Lane made friends easily, and enjoyed working with people. After coming to California, she continued to make friends, and was later married to Harry Lane.

COURT OF HONOR

A Court of Honor, in connection with Troop No. 8 was held in Berkeley Chapel Tuesday evening, November 10. There are over twenty-five boys actively engaged in this troop and a large number of them received advancements. Victor Lundblad, Scout executive and A. K. MacLean, commissioner, were present in behalf of the Berkeley-Contra Costa area council. Ten merit badges were awarded, one star scout. The Scouts who were awarded honors were Jack Smith, Clarence Dangerfield, Dan Redmond, Carver Moosman, Dick Maurer, Billy Parsons, Paul Stout, Preston Erickson, Clark Hughes, Don Rauson, Russell Rauson, Marion Johnson.

ACHIEVEMENT

Dr. D. M. Hammond, who for four years has attended the Berkeley Ward, and has been an active member and officer in the Deseret Club, left November 29 for Logan, Utah, to take an instructorship in the Department of Zoology at the Utah State Agricultural College. Dr. Hammond is a graduate of Utah State, from which school he came to the University of California as a graduate student and teaching assistant in the Department of Zoology. After serving as teaching assistant for two years, Dr. Hammond received the Willard Dawson Thompson scholarship, which he held for two years. Last spring he was granted the Ph. D. degree. He was an honor student in zoology and a member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Xi honor societies. Since his graduation he has held a position as research associate in zoology at the University of California.

THE MESSENGER

Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

Published by the Oakland Stake of Zion

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801 Cragmont Avenue, Berkeley. AShberry 8615

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"Behold, I will send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me; and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple."—Mal. 3:1.

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INVENTORY TIME

As the year nears its close it is customary for business institutions to prepare to take an inventory—to make an accounting —to review the progress or failures of the year. The end of each year should also be inventory time for every individual, especially for Latter-day Saints.

Here are some items suggested for consideration in Latter-day Saint families at the close of 1936:

In the matter of loyalty to the Church and its leaders where have I stood this year?

In the payment of tithes and offerings what is my record for the year?

In observance of the Word of Wisdom, what have my actions been this year?

In attendance at Sacrament Meeting have I made a record to be proud of?

In observance of the Sabbath Day have I followed the Word of the Lord and the counsel of Church Leaders?

In helping the poor and needy, in extending the hand of fellowship, have I exhibited the true spirit of brotherhood?

In these and other things that are important in the lives of true Latter-day Saints, have I lived and acted as a Latter-day Saint?

If I have failed in any of these respects in 1936, how can I improve my record in 1937?

Note to Ward Teachers: It is suggested that in the presentation of this subject—Inventory Time—there should be no attempt to question those who are being visited. The purpose of this discussion should be to direct the attention of the Saints to the desirability of "Checking up" on themselves, using the items listed herewith as subjects for special consideration by each individual of each family. Naturally it is to be hoped that the result of the "inventory" will be a resolution to improve definitely the record next year in each item where the record for 1936 is not entirely satisfactory.

Ward Teachers' Message,
December, 1936.

MUSIC

The Christmas Musical Festival sponsored by the Oakland Stake Board of the M. I. A. under the direction of Esther Jensen, will be held in the Oakland Stake House on December 20. Helen Richards will be the soloist; Sarah Summerhays, the reader. Choral numbers will be rendered by music groups of the individual wards and special numbers by the Mormon Male Chorus.

THE CHURCH AND WORLD PEACE

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these things to be. Wherefore, the Lord commandeth you, when ye shall see these things come among you that ye shall awake to a sense of your awful situation, because of this secret combination which shall be among you. For it cometh to pass that whoso buildeth it up seeketh to overthrow the freedom of all lands, nations, and countries; and it bringeth to pass the destruction of all people, for it is built up by the devil—who hath hardened the hearts of men that they have murdered from the beginning.

Wherefore, I, Moroni, am commanded to write these things that evil be done away, and that the time may come that Satan may have no power upon the hearts of the children of men—"

The spark which flew in Serbia in 1914 set the world aflame because of the existence of the very things foretold in the above quoted passages from the Book of Mormon. We had a World War because selfish men, seeking power, profits, and prestige, had formed secret alliances and combinations in, and among, nations. The hearts of these conspiring men were indeed hardened, for the blood of their fellow men meant little to them. There were, prior to the Great War, secret alliances which divided Europe into two armed camps—the Allied Powers, and the Central Powers. There were secret agreements within countries, e. g., between munitions makers and government officials. Murderous combinations, built up to get power and gain, covered the countries of Europe. Individually millions of men were corrupt. As a result, the work of destruction came upon them. Nearly every government on the continent was wrecked and ten million people were killed in the struggle which resulted. "The sword of justice of the Eternal God" had indeed fallen upon them because they had "suffered these things to be."

Today such combinations are again arising. It looks, in the international sphere, as though Russia and France are again on one side, and that Germany and Italy are on the other, to divide Europe once more. Innumerable lesser alliances and agreements are being made. Once more Satan seems to have a good deal of power over many individual men. Russia, Italy, Germany, Japan and Mexico are outstanding examples of countries in which conspiring men have deprived their peoples of their freedom. Perhaps the great revolutionary movements taking place in these countries is a part of the Lord's plan for men; perhaps the way is being opened for real freedom to be introduced to the inhabitants of these countries? "The Lord moves in mysterious ways his wonders to perform."

Moroni admonished us so that we might do away with some of the evils, as above mentioned, which beset us. We know that by bringing all individuals to a true knowledge of the Gospel, Mormons could certainly bring about the end of war for nations are composed of individuals, and if we have individual righteousness, we will have national righteousness. That is the sure way out of our difficulties. But since the threat of war is so imminent and the task of converting the stiff-necked world is so great, what shall we do?

Nations are sovereign powers whose affairs cannot legally be directed by any other earthly powers. The leaders of many of these states are selfish, godless, and unscrupulous men. Having about sixty nations on this globe, each claiming to be independent of any superior power or law, makes for a dangerous situation. To expect quiet and order under such conditions is like expecting perfect conduct from sixty dogs which are cooped in a single kennel—when about half of the brutes are hungry. Common sense seems to suggest that we establish a system of government and law to establish order and to replace anarchy. At any rate, as Latter Day Saints, we believe "that to the laws, all men owe respect and deference," and that "without them peace and harmony would be supplanted by anarchy and terror; human laws being instituted for the express purpose of regulating our interests, as individuals and nations, and between man and man—" (D. & C. 134:6). We also believe "that the commission of crime should be punished according to the nature of the offense: that murder, treason, robbery, theft, and the breach of the general peace, in all respects, should be punished according to their criminality, and their tendency to evil among men, by the laws of that government in which the offense is committed; and for the public peace and tranquility, all men should step forward and use their ability in bringing offenders against good laws to punishment." (D. & C. 134:8) Individuals who, in seeking selfishly and desperately to acquire wealth and power, play a part in causing war (which involves wholesale murder, treason, robbery, theft, and breach of the general peace) should, according to our belief, be punished. Here is where the real problem arises. We look, and lo, there is no government to punish these international criminals, for we observe that these men are in high places in their respective countries—and there is no higher earthly law over men than the law of their respective countries. This situation seems to call for the establishment of the necessary government and laws. Perhaps a world federal system patterned after the divinely inspired federal system of the United States may be the thing we need. Is this an impossible suggestion?

As Mormons, we believe in the idea of progress. Mankind has progressed from the simple family unit of government to the tribe, from the tribe, to the city-state, from the city-state to the principality, and from there to the modern nation. Why should we, of all people, deny the possibility of the one remaining step, i. e., an organized world? A world community is the goal of history. "A house divided against itself cannot stand," said Lincoln. Science has given us Clipper Ships, world radio broadcasts, and super ships like the Queen Mary. All this has made the world comparable to a house for we can communicate with all parts of it quickly and easily.

However, all of our modern scientific achievements cannot honestly be labeled as milestones on the road to perfection until we are certain that they will be used only for the welfare of man, and not for his destruction. We must witness the proper application of our knowledge, before we can say, "We are making progress."

Perhaps the idea of a world system is not as Utopian as it may sound at first. Recent demagogues in the United States have demonstrated that it is now almost possible, through the use of the radio alone to convert millions of people to a cause overnight. Then too, for the first time in history it is possible to administer a world system, if it were established. At any rate, we know that we shall eventually have a united world—for we believe, as one of our Articles of Faith declares "—Christ will reign personally upon the earth." One of our scriptures also states that "He will be their King and their Lawgiver."

Speaking of the world society of the future, Sir John A. R. Marriot says, "World conditions are today chaotic: we wait for light but behold obscurity; for brightness but we walk in darkness. Yet in the prevailing darkness there is a gleam of hope. Projects and plans have not materialized. The great experiment (The League of Nations) has disappointed generous hopes (so did The Articles of Confederation in the early history of the U. S.).

'Yet is there a possibility of
Some kindlier, higher, holier—all for each
and each for all,
Earth at last a warless world, a single
voice, a single tongue.
(Quarterly Review, July, 1936)

America is in the logical position to lead the world into a better day. "Its mission is only partly done. Great as its service has been, its future service will be greater. It must continue to point the way to civic righteousness." (Guide for Quorums of the Melchizedek Priesthood, 1930 edition, page 56) Bnt America needs leadership too. Should not we of the Church, having the fundamental truths of the Creator to guide us, do something about the situation? It seems to me that from us should come the torch to lighten "the darkling plain," that this earth might no more be a place

"Swept with confused alarms of struggle and flight,
Where ignorant armies clash by night—"

MISSIONARIES

On November 23, President Eugene B. Hilton, Frank Parsons, and I. B. Ball met with and set apart as Stake singing missionaries the Mormon Male Chorus, under the direction of Robert T. Sant. Hereafter their rehearsals, cottage meetings, quartets, and chorus singing at missionary meetings and elsewhere will be recorded as a supplementary report to the regular stake missionary reports to Salt Lake.

You are reminded to order now your church books for Christmas presents. What better rememberance of Christ on Christmas can you give your loved ones than His church books?

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MISSION HEADS SEEK INFORMATION FROM FRIENDS AND RELATIVES AT HOME

As a means of contacting friends and relatives residing in their various missions, Mission Presidents in the United States, Canada and Mexico, recently made an appeal to members of the Church to send them information as to the whereabouts of these people.

It was determined that there are living in various parts of the United States many persons who are related to members of the Church or who are friends, and it is desired to search these people out for visits by missionaries. In many cases these people are themselves inactive Church members and remain so for want of personal interest and social contact.

The mission presidents report that where they have occasionally found such people, one or more of whom in the family are members of the Church or related to members residing in the stakes of Zion, that they have been warmly received and have awakened interest and activity. It is desired that this continue on a larger scale by means of having information of these people sent to the mission headquarters by their friends and relatives.

This information is to be received at the following mission headquarters:

California Mission: President, Nicholas G. Smith, 153 West Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, California.

Canadian Mission: President, Abel S. Rich, 36 Ferndale Avenue, Toronto, Canada.

Central States Mission: President, Elias S. Woodruff, 302 South Pleasant Street, Independence, Mo.

Eastern States Mission: President, Don B. Colton, 155 Riverside Drive, New York, N. Y.

East Central States Mission: President, James M. Kirkham, 1440 James Court, Louisville, Ky.

Northern States Mission: President, B. S. Hinckley, 2555 North Sawyer Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

North Central States Mission: President, Wilford W. Richards, 3240 Park Avenue, Minneapolis, Minn.

Southern States Mission: President, LeGrand Richards, 485 North Avenue, N. E. Atlanta, Ga.

Spanish-American Mission: President, Orlando C. Williams, 3531 Fort Blvd., El Paso, Tex.

Texas Mission: President, James M. Peterson, 3717 Montrose Blvd., Houston, Tex.

Western States Mission: President, Joseph J. Daynes, 538 East Seventh Avenue, Denver, Colo.

GENEALOGY

Lesson Texts for 1937

The lesson text for the year 1937 in all senior genealogical classes will be "The Progress of Man," a textbook now being printed, written by Elder Joseph Fielding Smith. Those who have delighted in "The Way to Perfection" will be happy to know that this companion volume has been prepared. It gives us, in a logical, clear-cut, concise and illuminating way the history of man upon the earth from the time of his coming here from the pre-existent life till he reaches Celestial glory with his home upon this earth when it becomes a Celestial kingdom. It portrays for us the civilization of the first men, their progression when they were righteous, their decline and fall through wickedness and disobedience. It sketches the introduction of despotic kingdoms and governments, governments which rob men of their eternal free agency, and show how today the world-old struggle for religious and political freedom is still going on. It includes a most searching chapter by the Prophet Joseph Smith entitled, "The Government of God," another chapter is by Elder Orson Pratt on the Constitution of the United States as preparing the way for the greater kingdom of God that is to be established under the reign of Jesus Christ.

For the first time we have presented to us, through this volume, a history of man's progress upon the earth interpreted in the light of the revelations of the Lord, the meaning of the great events in history being presented to us in the light of their significance as the Lord Himself views it.

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WARD NEWS

Commencing with the next issue of The Messenger, the Wards and Branches will be featured. The January issue will feature Oakland Ward, the mother of all the other wards and branches in Oakland, and California.

Richmond, the first branch to be organized when Oakland began to be divided will be featured in the February issue. The usual features of The Messenger will also appear. The front page only will be devoted to the Ward. Wards and branches, get your material ready. A good picture of the first bishopric or presidency, and the present bishopric or presidency, and the chapel or meeting place is desired.

OAKLAND

Archer Willey was operated on for a ruptured appendix last week. It is the prayer of the people of the Oakland Stake that he may have a speedy recovery.

RICHMOND

Driving down Macdonald Avenue, opposite the park, one can see the Richmond Chapel, the construction of which is making visible progress. Other wards have intimated their readiness to assist us a day or two when we need it. We appreciate their cooperative attitude.

DIMOND

We welcome Bishop Lauper's mother back to Dimond. Mrs. Lauper recently returned from an extended visit in the South. Her daughter, Viola, came with her to make her permanent home in Oakland.

Mr. and Mrs. Burditt of Los Angeles spent the Thanksgiving holidays with Rose and Elmer Clarke.

A party was given Friday evening, November 20 at the Mary Dowd Reardon Studio by the officers and teachers of the Sunday School. About thirty people enjoyed the entertainment and refreshments.

The Primary Conference held Sunday, November 22 was outstanding in every respect. The children from the representative classes participated in the program.

Mavis Humphreys and Dennis Lauper sponsored a party given for the Old Testament classes throughout the Stake. It was held Thursday evening, November 19, in the Relief Society rooms; 31 people enjoyed the affair.

Patricia Fish recently returned from Los Angeles where she spent three weeks. Former members of Dimond who especially entertained for her were Mark and Genna Clarke, Harry and Ruth North, Kathleen and Mrs. Gordon, Willard and Marge Clarke, Lettie Goddard and Ferris Turner.

The Relief Society dinner given by that organization December 4 was a big success.

Wednesday afternoon, November 18 sixty people representative of the Daughters of the Pioneers of Alameda County met in Dimond Hall. An interesting program consisting of old-fashioned quadrilles, games and music was enjoyed. A new company is soon to be organized, anyone interested please get in touch with Effie Gibbs at FR. 5631-J.

Our sympathy is extended to Willard Clarke and his brothers who were recently called home to attend the funeral of their father.

BERKELEY

A birthday party which is expected to become a tradition in the Berkeley Ward was held in the Amusement Hall on November 20. Those receiving were Bishop and Mrs. Ericksen, Bishop and Mrs. Dunyan, Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox, and Mr. and Mrs. Johnson.

Following the reception, the program began with a prelude, the choir rendering the Berkeley Ward song, the words and music of which were written by W. King Driggs. The program included a reading by Lavon Eyring, a vocal solo by Helen Chipman Richards, remarks by Bishop Ericksen, and brief talks by Bishops Dunyan, Johnson, and Wilcox. Brother Johnson will be remembered as the first Bishop of Berkeley Ward. The evening's entertainment continued with a violin solo by Katherine Morell, accompanied by Emily Merrill. The significant event of the evening was the special birthday cake lighting and ceremony. Margaret Gardner officially lighted the candles, one for each auxiliary organization in the Ward. R. Kendall Thomas was master of ceremonies of a dramatic sketch which included Sheldon Ericksen, Lavon Eyring and himself. The concluding events of the evening was congregational singing of the song composed by W. King Driggs, and benediction by Brother Johnson.

After the program, the guests adjourned to the amusement hall for dancing and refreshments. Denzil Allen as general chairman, assisted by R. Kendall Thomas was responsible for the evening's success.

Miss Olga Lott was hostess at a Sunday afternoon tea given at the home of her sister, Mrs. Von T. Ellsworth, in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Marcellus Ricks, who were recently married in Salt Lake.

We regret to report that Fanny C. Moody has undergone a major operation and is now convalescing at the Humboldt Hospital in Albany. We wish her a speedy recovery.

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